

SENATE BILL 2152
By Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 21, relative to regulation and care of inmates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 21, is amended by adding the following as an appropriately designated new part:

Section 41-21-____. Each inmate housed at a department of correction institution shall be subject to and shall abide by the following grooming policy.

Section 41-21-____. (a) Hair.

(1) General.

(A) Extreme or fad style haircuts shall not be permitted.

(B) If dyes, tints or bleaches are used, colors must be natural to human hair and not present an extreme appearance.

(C) Lines shall not be cut into the hair or scalp.

(D) Haircuts, without reference to style shall conform to the following standards.

(2) Male.

(A) The hair on top of the head shall be neatly groomed. The length and bulk of hair will not be excessive or present a ragged, unkempt, or extreme appearance. Hair will present a tapered appearance and when combed will not fall over the ears or eyebrows or touch the collar except for the closely cut hair at the back of the neck.

Block cut fullness in the back is permitted in moderate degree as long as the tapered look is maintained.

(B) Sideburns shall be neatly trimmed. The base of sideburns shall not be flared and shall be a clean-shaven, horizontal line. Sideburns shall not extend below the lowest part of the exterior ear opening.

(C) The face shall be clean-shaven except mustaches are permitted. If a mustache is worn, it shall be neatly trimmed, tapered, and tidy and shall not present a chopped-off appearance. No portion of the mustache will cover the upper lip line or extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from the corner of the mouth. Handlebar mustaches, goatees, and beards are not permitted. If beard growth is prescribed by appropriate medical authority, the length required for such medical treatment shall also be specified.

(3) Female.

(A) Hair shall be neatly groomed. The length and bulk of hair shall not be excessive or present a ragged, unkempt or extreme appearance. Hair shall not fall over the eyebrows or extend below the bottom edge of the collar.

(B) Wigs or hairpieces may be worn as long as the wig or hairpiece is of a natural hair color and the style and length conform to the grooming policy.

(C) Hair holding ornaments (such as, but not limited to, barrettes, pins, clips, bands), if used, shall be unadorned and plain and must be transparent or similar in color to the hair, and shall be inconspicuously placed. Beads or similar ornamental items are not permitted.

(4) Cosmetics. Female inmates are permitted to wear cosmetics conservatively (as determined by the warden). Lipstick and nail polish are permitted as long as the color is conservative.

(5) Fingernails. All inmates shall keep fingernails clean and neatly trimmed so as not to interfere with performance of duty or present a safety hazard.

(6) Hygiene and body grooming. Inmates shall be expected to maintain good daily hygiene.

Section 41-21-____. The department is authorized to issue rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 1996, the public welfare requiring it.